The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
June 30, 2000

Field Nights a hit for summer fun

The Museum's new after-hours event, Field Nights, is off to great start, and we'd like to invite Museum staff to join in the festivities for the rest of the summer.

Field Museum staff will receive free admission to Field Nights all summer long upon presentation of a valid ID. Food and drink are available for sale; there are no staff discounts. Invite your friends!

The $12 admission price includes a chance to see Sue and other Museum exhibits after-hours and an outdoor celebration on the northwest terrace featuring great bands, a group drumming session, wonderful food and drink, and the best views of Chicago's lakefront.

So, mark your calendars for upcoming Field Nights events. Here's the performance calendar for the balance of the summer:

July 6, 2000 Chicago Samba *(Danceable, energetic samba jams)*
July 13, 2000 Il Kwon Nori *(Drum fest)*
July 20, 2000 Spirits *(African drumming and dancer/stilt walkers)*
July 27, 2000 MASS Ensemble *(Inter-disciplinary performance)*
August 3, 2000 Tatsu Aoki's Miyumi Project *(Asian drumming)*
August 10, 2000 To be determined
August 17, 2000 Funkadesi (*World music)*

Submitted by Melissa Hilton

FIELD NOTES

Week of July 3

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Staff Holiday (Independence Day)
- Tuesday

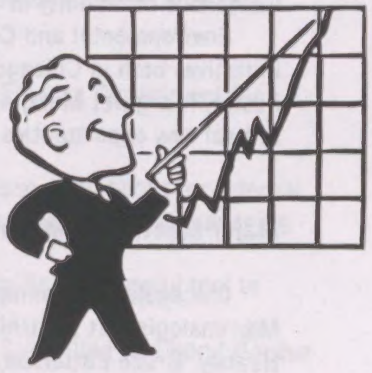
Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., Special Events

Aerobics Class
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Classroom A

Public/Campus Events

Taste of Chicago continues
- All week

Field Nights
- Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m.



Attendance since Sue opening

Month of May	208,458
June 4-10	95,965
June 11-17	83,255
June 18-25	66,493
Total	**454,171**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

New manager announced for Pritzker Lab

The Pritzker Lab is pleased to announce its new Lab Manager, **Amy Driskell**. Amy comes to us from the University of Chicago and has been a resident graduate student in the Field Museum's Bird Division for the last five years.

The Lab Management Committee (**Ballard, Bates, Goldstein, Hackett, Lutzoni,** and **Pryer**) is taking this opportunity to welcome Amy, to highlight the Lab's new website (http://www.fieldmuseum.com/research_collections/pritzker_lab/pritzker/index.html), and to remind Field Museum researchers of the Lab's policies.

Researchers who wish to schedule projects in the Pritzker Lab can find the project scheduling form on the web site (http://www.fieldmuseum.com/research_collections/pritzker_lab/pritzker/form.html). In order to ensure proper training of lab users and scheduling of projects, this form should be filled out and submitted to the Lab Management Committee three to six months prior to any research being conducted.

Please note as you fill out this form that the Lab Manager's job is to facilitate the gathering of molecular data, not to provide assistance with data analysis unless research collaborations have been previously agreed on. We encourage people to consult with the Lab Management Committee and the Lab Manager when they are preparing grant proposals to make sure the proposal requests the necessary funds for the planned work and to ensure that the lab has the space and equipment required.

Submitted by Pritzker Molecular Lab Management Committee

Field Museum staff in Big Sky Country

Despite travel delays (both coming and going), The Field Museum had a strong presence at the international meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) June 9-13 in Missoula, Montana. This was SCB's largest meeting to date, with more than 1400 attending.

Jennifer Shopland and **Bil Alverson** organized a discussion session on "Data Sources for Conservation: Translating Information into Action," and **Tom Schulenberg** moderated another discussion session on rapid biological inventories, with Conservation International and The Nature Conservancy.

Doug Stotz, Carol Fialkowski, Jennifer Shopland, and **Dan Brinkmeier** all presented posters, ranging in topic from the distribution patterns of birds and butterflies in Costa Rica: implications for conservation; to humans as part of the ecosystem; to citizen-scientist efforts; to turtle conservation work with the Cofan indigenous community in Ecuador.

Environmental and Conservation Programs (ECP) also had a booth, showcasing many of the Museum's initiatives both in Chicago Wilderness and in the tropics. **Gretchen Baker, Heike Betz, Gillian Darlow, Robin Foster, Margaret Metz,** and **Debby Moskovits**, along with the other ECPers staffed the booth, which attracted several new opportunities for collaborations.

Submitted by Environmental and Conservation Programs

Major Meeting of Mammalogists

Chicagoland mammalogists recently returned en masse from the meetings of the American Society of Mammalogists at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. This year's participants included **Larry Heaney, Bruce Patterson, Bill Stanley**, as well as a number of students and recent graduates.

At the membership meeting, Bruce was elected as President-Elect and Larry Heaney became Vice President. (As you might expect, there were lots of comments about the "Chicago machine" having taken over the 3400-member society...). Both participated in board meetings and distributed honors at the annual banquet, Bruce presenting the Latin American Fellowship and Larry the C. Hart Merriam Award for Research.

UIC graduate students **Jim Norton** and **Oliver Pergams** received grants-in-aid of research from the society, and UC graduate student **Kate Lyons** won the society's highest student award, the Shadle Fellowship.

Papers or posters were presented by former post-doc **Roland Kays** (social behavior of maneless lions), recent high-school graduate **Sarah Lansing** (buffalo carcasses in Tsavo), Kate Lyons (Quaternary North American mammals), Northwestern post-doc **Link Olson** (Malagasy tenrecs), Bruce Patterson (dental problems of Tsavo and Mfuwe lions, and new mammal surveys in Manu), UIC student **Jodi Sedlock** (foraging by insectivorous bat communities), and UIC student **Ginny Turner-Erfort** (granivorous rodent foraging; Ginny is also now a student member of the Board of Directors of the Society). A good time was had by all.

MUSEUM AFFAIRS

Need a Stack of Explorer's Guides? - Part 2

The updated version of "An Explorer's Guide to The Field Museum" has arrived. This book has a picture of an elephant on the cover and highlights 60 objects from our exhibition halls. Among other updates, the 2000 version of the book now includes: the **Underground Adventure** exhibition, the McDonald's Fossil Prep Lab, new information about **Sue** and a new picture of Sue's skull.

As in the past, Museum departments will be able to purchase copies of this book for internal use. The books cost $5 each and are available from the Marketing and Communications Department. This cost is higher than it was before because the Museum's cost for printing these books has increased.

The internal cost is now the same price that the public pays when purchasing this book at the Museum store or admissions desks. We offer these books as a service to our visitors and to further the Museum's educational mission. We are committed to keeping the cost of this book minimal so that it is as accessible as possible to our visitors. In the future, we will no longer be able to offer these books to our visitors unless the books generate enough revenue to pay for themselves. Please note that the Museum currently does not make any profit off of the internal or external purchase of this item.

Here's how to get Explorer's Guides for your department:

1. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD. Because space is such a limited commodity in the Museum, these books are stored off-site. If you are ordering more than 25 books, please let us know at least four weeks before you will need the books.

2. Complete an internal expense transfer form, with the number of books that you would like and the account number to charge. Send this form to **Dorothee Jean-Charles** in the Marketing and Communications Department.

3. Someone from your department will need to pick the books up from Dorothee and sign for their receipt. The books can't be sent through the interoffice mail.

4. At the end of the month, Dorothee will send the expense transfers to the Finance Department for recording.

This procedure applies to all departments other than the Museum Stores. Please note, books for internal use can only be purchased through Marketing and Communications. The Museum Stores are only managing inventory that is for purchase by the public.

We are excited to be able to offer this book. We hope that you will continue to find it a useful tool to introduce the Museum to the individuals with whom you work.

Submitted by **Cheryl Bardoe**

Monthly events calendars to be published exclusively online

Please note that the Special Events department will no longer be putting the monthly calendar in the Natural News. It will now be on the Intranet Museum Wide Calendar, starting with July.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Thanks for help with Twilight party

On behalf of the Field's Field Associates, the Adler's Jet Set Council and the Shedd's Auxiliary Society I would like to thank all of the Field Museum staff who helped us out with Twilight, the third annual Museum Campus event, on Thursday, June 15. Hosting a special event on the terrace is a logistical challenge and everyone below played an integral part in making it easier than it could have been otherwise. Many thanks!

Alex Bacon
Adam Blejski
Facility Planning & Operations Department
Lou French
Mark Green
Housekeeping Department
Kalli Hilbrenner
Jennifer Kerr
Danielle Kiefer
Jason Lanning
Mario Monroe
Ernst Pierre-Toussaint
Rachel Polutnik
Protection Services Department
Roger Reichard
Jordan Rodimel
Heather Scott
Douglas Shield
Alan Smetana
Rodolfo Soria
Bill Sweeney
Megan Sweeney
Mentee Teah
Ruben Villanueva
Visitor Services Department

Submitted by Amanda Geppert

HUMAN RESOURCES

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER PREVIEW
TUESDAY, JULY 11
2:45 p.m. • Presentation (including a representative from Lucasfilm)
Location TBD

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Exhibit open (including audio tour)
Ground Floor East (Next to Underground Adventure)

This exhibition will be open to the public from, July 15, 2000 through January 7, 2001. This exciting exhibition showcases the original artwork, props, models, costumes and characters used to create the Star Wars films, and connects the films to elements of classical mythology. Visitors will see Princess Leia's gown, the droids C-3PO and R2-D2, Chewbacca, and other objects from these classic films. Please join us for this special sneak preview. Light snacks will be served.